

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01125 260500Z
ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 1125

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PDIP, IT, MU
SUBJECT: BIO INFOROSTION ON NIZAR MOHAMMED ALI, OMANI AMBASSADOR
TO ITALY

REF: ROME 11307

1. NIZAR MOHAMMED ALI IS ONE OF SEVERAL OMANI OFFICIALS EDUCATED IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LENINGRAD WITH A DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. A BROTHER NAMED JAFFAR MOHAMMED ALI WAS EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KIEV, AND ANOTHER BROTHER NAMED MOHSIN MOHAMMED ALI STUDIED ENGINEERING AT LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY IN MOSCOW. AS OF 1976, MOHSIN WAS WORKING TOWARD AN ENGINEERING MASTERS DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

2. NIZAR IS RELATED TO DR. ASIM AL-JAMALI, A MAJOR FIGURE IN OMANI ELITE CIRCLES AND CURRENTLY MINISTER OF LANDS AND MUNICIPALITIES. THE RELATIONSHIP IS NOT CLEAR, BUT THEY MAY BE HALF-BROTHERS THROUGH THEIR MOTHER, WHO MARRIED TWICE.

3. NAZAR'S SHORT DIPLOMATIC CAREER INCLUDES A POSTING AS FIRST SECRETARY AT THE OMANI EMBASSY IN LONDON. HE SERVED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AS DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND IN 1975 WAS A MEMBER OF OMANI DELEGATION TO UNGA.

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4. NIZAR IS SHORT AND STOCKY. HE SPEAKS PASSABLE BUT FAR FROM PERFECT ENGLISH. HE MARRIED AN OMANI GIRL OF ZANZIBARI BACKGROUND IN EARLY 1976. HIS WIFE SPEAKS A LITTLE ENGLISH.

5. MIZAR DRINKS ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES IN MODERATION.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE HIS SOVIET ASSOCIATIONS, NIZAR'S APPOINTMENT TO THIS AND PREVIOUS POSTS INDICATES HE IS TRUSTED BY THE STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST OMANI GOVERNMENT. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR HIGH OMANI OFFICIALS TO HAVE SOVIET EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS, AND IN ALL SUCH CASES THEIR ANTI-COMMUNISM IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED. EMBOFFS HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, KNOWN NIZAR WELL AND HAVE NO FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HIS IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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